Accidents in Ahmedabad - Howrah Express

1231. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total toll in railway accident including the derailment of Ahmedabad - Howrah Express during the last three years;

(b) whether India stands top in the list of railway accidents in the world; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Number of persons killed in train accidents during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and derailment of Ahmedabad - Howrah Express is as under:

1994-95	305
1995-96	594
1996-97	363
April-October 1997 (including derailment of Ahmedabad-Howrah Express)	190

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Calcutta Metro Railway

1232. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sale amount of passenger tickets turn-out, in 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Calcutta Metro; and

(b) the work expenses of Metro Railways during the same period; category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The revenue earnings on account of sale of tickets etc. in Calcutta Metro is as under:—

Year	No. of passengers (in crores)	Earnings (in crore of Rs.)
1995-96	4.33	11.70
1996-97	6.26	17.42

(b) The working expenses are as under:—

(In crore of Rupees)

Year	Gross working expenses	Appropriation to pension reserve fund	Net working expenses	Main categories of working expenses		
				Staff	Energy	Maintenance
1995-96	25.48	3.23	22.25	6.78	11.02	2.20
1996-97	37.19	4.15	33.04	10.92	14.96	3.01

घायल यात्रियों को हर्जाना देना

1233. श्री बंगारू लक्ष्मण: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने हाल ही में, रेल दुर्घटना में पीड़ित यात्रियों को दिए जाने वाली हर्जाने की राशि में वृद्धि की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) हर्जाने की बढ़ाई गई राशि का भुगतान किस तारीख से किया जाएगा?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) जी हां।

(ख) और (ग) गाड़ी दुर्घटना या "अप्रिय घटना" में मृत्यु तथा स्थायी अशक्तता के मामले में क्षतिपूर्ति की राशि को 2 लाख रुपए से बढ़ाकर 4 लाख रुपए कर दिया गया है। घायलों के मामले में न्यूनतम राशि को बढ़ाकर 16,000/- रुपए से 32,000/- रुपए तथा अधिकतम राशि को 1.80 लाख रुपए से 3.60 लाख रुपए कर दिया गया है। यह राशि 1.11.97 से "गाड़ी दुर्घटनाओं अथवा "अप्रिय घटनाओं" के लिए लागू होगी।

Modernisation of Railway Platforms

1234. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration for modernisation of the platforms and creation of additional platforms at the New Delhi Railway Station; and

(b) the estimate of expenditure involved and the time of completion of each work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The expenditure involved is estimated at Rs. 31.30 crores. Two additional platforms are expected to be provided by Dec. 1997 and two more during the year 1999-2000, subject to availability of resources.

Allocation of funds for development of Railway

1235. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, under the Constitution, Railways do not belong to the Union List of the Seventh Schedule;

(b) whether, given this fact, any outlay for developing or extending railway networks in any part of the country should not be the onus of the Union Government alone; and

(c) if answer to (b) be in the affirmative, would not Government agree that there is an impropriety involved in asking State Governments to allocate funds for railways development within their territories?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Railways do belong to the Union List.

(b) and (c) Union Government has been funding the development of the Railways in India. There are instances where State Governments agreed to funding in development and speeding up of projects in their own State territories. This is done only after a dialogue between the Union Government and the State Government has taken place. There is no impropriety involved in such areas.

Railway Projects in Jammu and Kashmir

1236. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of railway projects in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-east have been blocked by the resistance from environmental activists and local people; and

(b) if so, the details and steps being taken to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No. Sir. However, there is stiff resistance from the local people over the site of Depa Station on Dudhnoi-Depa new line project in North-east region and the land has not been made available by State Government so far. State Govt. of Meghalaya is being pursued to make available the land.